

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the production of Desloratadine which comprises, reacting starting compound loratadine with neat alcohol in presence of inorganic base, and isolating the title compound in crystalline form by conventional methods on addition of excess water.
2. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alcohol used is alkanols of 1 to 10 carbon atoms.
3. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the ~~alkanols of 1 to 10 carbon atoms used are~~ neat alcohol is methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, tert. butyl alcohol, pentanol, hexanol, cycloalkanols ~~such as cyclohexanol;~~ or aromatic alcohols ~~such as benzyl alcohol~~ or combinations thereof.
4. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alcohol used is a C₁-C₄ alkanol, preferably methanol.
5. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of alcohol used vary between 1 and 10 (w/v) equivalents calculated on the starting compound loratadine.
6. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of alcohol used is 2-6 (w/v) equivalents, ~~preferably be 4 equivalents.~~
7. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inorganic base

used is an alkali metal hydroxides hydroxide.

8. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide ~~such as~~ is sodium hydroxide; or potassium hydroxide ~~are used~~.

9. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the alkali metal ~~hydroxides~~ hydroxide used is sodium hydroxide.

10. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of inorganic base used ~~[[vary]]~~ varies between 0.5 and 1.6 (w/w) equivalents calculated on the starting compound loratadine.

11. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein 1-1.6 (w/w) equivalents of base is used.

12. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base used is 1.1 (w/w) equivalents.

13. (Currently Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature between 60⁰ and 100⁰ C or at respective refluxing temperature; ~~preferably between 80⁰ and 95⁰ C more preferably between 85⁰ to 90⁰ C.~~

14. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of water added is 2 to 4 times of the solvent employed.

15. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1, where in the isolation is effected by filtration.

16. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the neat alcohol is methanol.

17. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the neat alcohol is ethanol.
18. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the neat alcohol is n-propanol.
19. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the amount of alcohol used is 4 equivalents.
20. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature between 85⁰ C and 95⁰ C.